

[English]

Power Load Despatch Facilities

*576. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to augment the existing load despatch facilities including grid management and communication facilities to avoid recurrent grid disturbances.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Load Despatch functions are organised in a two-tier manner, in every region. The States have State level Load Despatch Centres, these State level Centres are linked to the Regional Load Despatch Centres to carry out their operations. The State Load Despatch Centres are operated by State Electricity Boards. The Regional Load Despatch Centres are operated by Central Electricity Authority. The Load Despatch Centres basically deal with supply and demand management of power and maintain system parameters like frequency, voltage, etc. within limits. The Government is taking steps to augment these facilities at Load Despatch Centres and to improve communication facilities. In addition, steps are also being taken to improve the grid management technique which is an on-going process. Schemes to augment the above facilities at the Load

Despatch Centres, both at the Regional and State level, have been drawn up for the Northern, Eastern, Southern and North-Eastern regions. Similar exercise has been initiated for the Western region. While the scheme for the Northern region is under advance stage of implementation, the schemes for Eastern, Southern and North-Eastern regions are under various stages of processing.

(c) Does not arise

Conference of Power Ministers of States

*577 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether a conference of State Power Ministers was held in New Delhi in February 1991.

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the Conference and the suggestions made; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) and (b) A Conference of Chief Ministers and Power Ministers was convened by the then Prime Minister on the 19th February, 1991 to discuss the role of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) in power development and the measures that need to be taken to improve their performance and financial viability.

The main suggestions made at the Conference related to making the SEBs function on commercial lines to

ensure that the statutory 3% rate of return per annum on net fixed assets is earned. In order to achieve this return, it was suggested that :—

- the capital base of the SEBs should be increased to achieve a debt : equity ratio of 1:1.
- tariff should cover generation costs fully;
- State Governments must pay Rural Electrification (RE) subsidy regularly, and
- State Electricity Boards should be compensated when they have to supply power to the consumers at a cost less than the cost of generation.

(c) The State Electricity Boards are autonomous organisations under the State Governments and the initiative in these matters has to be of the State Governments/SEBs concerned. However, it is gratifying that in response to constant persuasion several State Governments/SEBs have taken steps to implement the suggestions by raising tariffs; by modifying the capital base; and by paying RE subsidy to State Electricity Boards.

Foreign Tourists in North-East Region

*578. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from tourism in North East region during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the regulations for the visit of the foreign tourists to North East region are not at par with the rest of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of disparities

existing in this regard and the steps taken to increase the foreign exchange earnings from tourists visiting this region ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Estimates of foreign exchange earnings from tourism are not compiled separately for different States and regions

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) Foreigners are not allowed to visit most parts of North Eastern States without special permission. This restriction is being reviewed from time to time and suitable relaxations are made to increase the flow of foreign tourist traffic to the region. Other steps taken include improvement of infra-structural facilities and overseas publicity of places of tourist attraction

Rail Fare Concession to Handicapped Persons

*579 SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the rail fare concession to physically handicapped persons in the air-conditioned chair cars and air-conditioned sleeper cars, and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) :

(a) Such physically handicapped persons who are eligible for concession by First class can travel by AC Sleeper by paying the difference in fare.

(b) Does not arise.